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# GOLF COURSE NEWS

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3  
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## Jones challenges architects

Robert Trent Jones Jr. took over the gavel as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in April and promptly gave a rallying call for the building of 5,000 new golf courses in the United States in the next 10 years.

Jones, of Palo Alto, Calif., who took over the reins from Pete Dye, told ASGCA members at their annual meeting in Pinehurst, N.C.: "The National Golf Foundation says we must add at least one golf course every day for the next 10 years to meet the exploding demand for golf throughout the country.

"We should probably round that figure off to 5,000 before the year 2000 and consider it one of the greatest challenges that this organization has ever faced."

Jones said it is also "a tremendous challenge to the creative energy and talent of each one of us individually. The game has never been more popular than it is today, and it is our responsibility to meet that

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### 1988 Golf Facilities in the U.S.

	1987	1988	Change Number	Pct.
Total Facilities	12,407	12,582	+175	+1.4
New Facilities	110	161	+51	+46
Total Courses	13,436*	13,626	+190	+1.4
New Courses	145*	211	+66	+46
Courses under Construction	223*	334	+111	+50
Courses in Planning	290*	382	+92	+32

\* — Estimated.

*Courtesy of National Golf Foundation*

## INSIDE

### Features

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bubbles over in courses

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innovations spruce up courses

### Golf Participation in the U.S.

	1987	1988	Change
All Golfers (played at least 1 around)	21.7M	23.4M	+7.8
Frequent Golfers (played 25 rounds)	4.86M	5.62M	+15.6
New Golfers	2.10M	2.21M	+5.2
Rounds Played			
Total	434M	487M	+12.2
Average	19.4	20.8	+7.2

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golf continues to rise

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## Construction up 45 %

The growing wave of golf course construction in the United States rose 45 percent in 1988, according to the latest research by the National Golf Foundation.

With Florida leading the way for the fourth straight year, 211 new golf courses opened for play in 1988, compared to 145 in 1987.

Another 716 were either under construction or being planned, compared to 513 in 1987, the study found.

Florida accounted for 35 new courses, while Texas followed with 20, Georgia with

*Continued on page 30*

## Oregon's seed industry in trouble

BY MARK LESLIE  
Oregon's State Legislature is considering a field-burning ban that would endanger the country's major providers of cool-season golf course grasses.

Oregon's 70 seed companies provide all U.S.-produced ryegrass, bentgrass,

Chewings and creeping red fescues, half the U.S.-produced tall fescue and about one-fourth its bluegrass.

But in the process, between mid-July and the end of September each year, the 800 farmers who grow seed burn their fields to purge them of the weeds and disease that

endangers the grass seeds. And last year when one farmer was burning a field, the wind changed direction, blew the smoke onto a major highway, and a seven-death, 37-care pileup resulted.

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*Courtesy of Applewood Seed Co.*

Superintendent Dick Schmidt has beautified his Port Ludlow (Wash.) Golf Course. See pages 18 and 19 for the lowdown on innovations in wildflower use.

## ClubCorp. contracted for Moscow site

BY MARK LESLIE  
A U.S.-Russia joint venture company has contracted Club Corp. International to build and then manage an 18-hole golf course, country club and conference center outside Moscow.

JV Dialogue, a company formed in November 1987 by Chicago Research and Trading owner Joe Ritchie and six Russian firms, plans the complex as part of a technical village it is building on the collective farm Leninski Lutch (Lenin's Light) outside Moscow.

Ritchie formed Management Partnerships Inc. to formally separate CRT from the Russian project. But CRT Executive Vice President Gus Pellizi is working on the plan and is upbeat about its prospects.

"The concept of the Leninski Lutch project is to develop a village which would enable people to live and work in a pleasant place with a pleasant environment," Pellizi said. "We thought what we would like to do was

*Continued on page 29*

## GOVERNMENT UPDATE

### Florida bill would mandate irrigation

A bill reportedly will be introduced in the next Florida legislative session that would mandate testing and licensing for all irrigation contractors.

The Florida Irrigation Society supports the bill, according to FIS Executive Director Fred McGee.

Saying that as much as 75 percent of Florida's water usage is directed toward irrigation of some type, McGee said, "It's almost

criminal to allow such a great portion of our water resources to be controlled by individuals who have never been certified as competent."

McGee said the state has no expressed policy or code that addresses installation and fabrication of complete irrigation systems.

### Oregon

*Continued from page 1*

That brought a renewed burst of legislative action by environmentalists and others. The Oregon Senate and House are hearing three bills, all of which would ban field burning. One would stop field burning and propane-flame sanitation immediately; the others would stop it in one year or two years, respectively.

Seed industry officials involved in the issue feel a final negotiated bill will be passed by the first of July.

It is a serious issue for the seed industry and the golf courses and others who depend on the seeds in their businesses.

"This cause a reduction in yield and... a significant problem for the industry in controlling diseases and weeds that may infest grass seed fields," said David Nelson, executive director of the Oregon Fine Fescue Commission in Salem, Ore. "It would give us major quality-control headaches."

Nelson said if the ban is passed, prices of quality seeds will rise and supply will decrease.

He added that the "significant numbers" of Oregon seed companies, which employ about 10,000 people, would look to move to other places.

Washington supplies the bulk of U.S.-produced bluegrass but little else. Argentina wants to grow seed, and China "desperately" wants to get into the seed business, Nelson said. "I don't know where, but there's another place somewhere in the world that could grow seed like Oregon."

Nelson said he sees all three bills as "vehicles to use for rewriting the final bill — whatever that may be — after a negotiation process.

But he said there's little to negotiate.

"There's not too much we can do," he said. "There are a few things we have learned how to do: For instance, propane flaming is a substitutable alternative (to burning) for some of the newer turf-type ryegrasses."

The Oregon Seed Council, Oregon Seed Trade Association and Oregon State University

*Continued on page 15*

### NCA hires Washington veteran

The National Club Association has appointed Thomas M. Walsh director of government relations, according to NCA Executive Vice President Gerard F. Hurley.

"With his unique background in legal, legislative and tax matters (Walsh) is a valuable asset to the association and the private club community," Hurley said.

Walsh, an adjunct professor of political science at Catholic University, joins NCA after four years of extensive legal and legislative work in private practice. He served as tax counsel for the U.S. Senate

Committee on Small Business in 1984-85, advising the committee and its members on tax and energy issues.

From 1978-84 Walsh provided legislative assistance to U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers. He advised Bumpers and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on all energy matters coming before committees and the Senate.

Walsh also served two years as senior tax attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, a post he took after four years as attorney for the Office of the Solicitor at the

Federal Power Commission, now the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Walsh said he looks forward "to applying my experience to the challenges that lie ahead in furthering the association's interest and protecting the rights of the nation's private clubs."

NCA is composed of 1,000 private social, athletic and recreational clubs, including 700 golf facilities, and is the only trade association serving the business, legal and legislative interests of private clubs nationwide.

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### Ill. ruling puts some at risk

More vigorous state criminal prosecution of safety and health violations in the workplace is in prospect.

An Illinois Supreme Court decision on Feb. 2 exposes corporate officials to increased risk of imprisonment and/or monetary fines for such violations.

The American Seed Trade Association, 1030 15th St., N. W. Washington, D. C., 20005, has copies of the ruling report prepared by ASTA legal counsel.

### Weed stance toughened after Argentine problem

The Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has toughened its stand on noxious weeds found in imported seeds.

The agency announced on Feb. 7 that:

"Any weed or imported weed seed listed in the Federal Noxious Weed Act Regulations is subject to the FNWA even if occurs in a shipment of agricultural or vegetable seed."

Prompting this decision was

discovery of Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) in lots of grass seed mixtures containing tall fescue imported from Argentina.

Previously, only those nine noxious weeds listed in Title III of the Federal Seed Act were cause for concern in imported seeds.

The Federal Noxious Weed Act Regulations list many more seeds.

## Oregon

Continued from page 14

Agronomy Unit have all said that without burning it would be difficult to maintain the seed industry as it exists today.

John Powell of Powell & Associates in Salem, who lobbies for the Oregon Seed Trade Association, said, "It's an extremely emotional issue." Some 500 people — "a majority of them from the farming community" — attended a public hearing on one bill on April 11, he said.

Powell said he has been negotiating with the governor's office, legislators and opponents of burning since late October and he expects a compromise to be worked out. "The fact is, the hearings usually don't change any minds," he said.

Jim Carnes, president of International Seeds and immediate past president of the American Seed Trade Association, said, "I do not feel there will be a ban at this time."

"The governor (Neil Goldschmidt) has said he will veto a ban. He wants action taken but the seed industry to survive."

Carnes said the seed industry has offered these compromises:

- Reducing the cap on burnable acres statewide from 250,000 to 165,000.

- A five-year phaseout of burning, but allowing growers to continue to burn stacks if they can't sell the straw. "We've proved less than 10 percent of the smoke is generated from stack-burning because it's a much hotter fire," he said.

- Increasing fees that growers pay per acre that they burn, with the money used for research on straw use and alternative ways to sanitize fields.

- The five-year phaseout be law "providing we have workable alternatives in place, certified by the Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Environmental Council."

Powell said an immediate ban would surely not pass.

"If it did, it would shut down the industry as we know it because no known way exists to even give the straw away," he said.

He said the prospects of negotiating a limited burning are good.

"There are two major questions," he said. "One, how many acres will be allowed to be open-burned? Two — and this really worries the farmers — will there be a definite cutoff date in the future?"

Open-field burning has been an issue in Oregon for nearly 20 years.

The state legislature in 1971 banned open-field burning effective in 1975; but the 1975 legislature set a four-year phaseout. Then the 1979 legislature stopped the phaseout at 250,000 acres statewide.

Since then the seed growers have portioned out the 250,000 acres among their total 345,000 acres.

The legislative battle is "going to be difficult," said the Oregon Fine Fescue Commission's Nelson.

"We just have to work through the process... Our opponents want to bring the issue up on the 1990 legislative ballot."

But the seed growers just released a poll that indicates that 65 percent of the Oregonians polled oppose a ban on field burning.

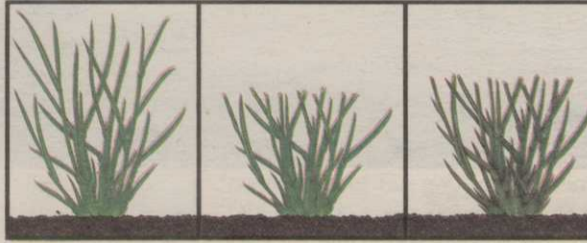
Another 31 percent supports the ban and 4 percent are undecided, the poll found.

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